

NOTE ON *ADIANTUM PEDATUM* L. SSP. *CALDERI* CODY

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Adiantum pedatum L. ssp. *calderi* Cody, as described in the January 1983 issue of *Rhodora* (Cody, 1983) occurs at one Maine station as well as at the stations reported in Quebec, Newfoundland, Vermont, California, and Washington. The Maine station was discovered in 1977 by Jonathan Carter, researching plants of serpentine outcrops in Maine (Carter, 1979). Following Carter's directions, H. R. Tyler and I visited the site in September 1978.

We found a small population of *Adiantum pedatum* var. *aleuticum*, as it was called by Carter, growing on a serpentine outcrop on the northeast slope of Whitecap Mountain, Somerset County, Maine. Most of the mountain at this elevation (approximately 3100') is covered with dense spruce krummholz; the ferns grew in an isolated pocket which, presumably because of the serpentine outcrop, was basically unvegetated. The noticeably glaucous fronds were short and stiffly erect, with contracted pinnules. In stature, morphology, and ecology, these plants correspond to Cody's *Adiantum pedatum* ssp. *calderi* rather than to the variety to which they were originally referred.

Adiantum pedatum var. *aleuticum* (or, more correctly, ssp. *calderi*) has been listed as "threatened or endangered" in New England because it is known from only two sites in the region (Crow, et al., 1981). The one Maine site for this subspecies has been placed on the Main Register of Critical Areas (Critical Areas Program, 1981).

The original specimen from the Maine station (Carter #513, July 1977) was deposited at the herbarium of the University of New Hampshire (NHA). A second specimen (Gawler & Tyler, s.n., 1 September 1978) has been deposited at the herbarium of the University of Maine at Orono (MAINE).

Cody's (1983) division of *Adiantum pedatum* into the subspecies *pedatum*, *calderi*, and *aleuticum* leaves ambiguous the position of the variety *subpumilum* W. H. Wagner, described in 1978. This extremely dwarfed variety, though known from horticulture, was only recently found in nature, on coastal cliffs of the Brooks Peninsula of Vancouver Island (Wagner & Boydston, 1978). As Wagner and Boydston point out, further study is needed to understand thoroughly the *Adiantum pedatum* complex.

LITERATURE CITED

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